INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State ACTION COPY

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38-L
Action
NEA

Control: 15110
Rec'd: March 24, 1956
11:30 a.m.

FROM: Tripoli

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 531, March 24, 2 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 531; REPEATED INFORMATION BENGHAZI UNNUMBERED.

REVIEWED BY J.M.Razi DATE May 6, 1982

Following text proposed note on aid (item 1 EMBTEL 527). Unnecessary words deleted.

QUOTE

Excellency:

I have honor inform Your Excellency that my government has considered your letter of February 17, 1956, setting forth Libya's estimate its economic development requirements. While US cannot be considered as having assumed responsibility finance plan set forth in your letter, in whole or in any assured part, it is prepared take following steps assist further meeting Libya's needs:

(1) Within general framework this estimate, USG prepared grant before July 1, 1956, economic aid to Libya in amount $5 million in addition to $4 million from special purpose funds already transferred Libya during present fiscal year.

(2) As Your Excellency was informed by my letter of March 15, 1956 USG is prepared ship Libya before July 1, 1956, 5,000 tons relief wheat, in addition to 7,200 tons now in process being shipped, thereby raising to 25,000 tons amount relief wheat furnished US FY/1956.

(3) USG is prepared, subject legislative action by Congress, make available $7 million economic aid to Libya between July1, 1956, and June 30, 1957. This amount would be in addition to $4 million from special purpose funds already promised in note from American Charge dated September 9, 1954.

(4) USG is prepared consider in accordance with law provision of up to 25,000 tons relief wheat to Libya between July 1, 1956, and June 30, 1957.

773.5 MSP/3-2456

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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INCOMING TELEGRAM — SECRET — 3/25/56 10 a.m. CORRECTED PAGE 2

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-2- 531, March 24, 2 p.m., from Tripoli, Control 15110.

(5) These actions being considered by USG in implementation its commitment of 1954 give sympathetic consideration economic needs Libya in light traditional friendship between two governments and in light progress already made.

(6) USG will continue in future determine under its commitments of 1954 extent to which it can contribute to economic development Libya after US FY 1957, and actions of Libyan Government as well as progress achieved in economic development will continue strongly to influence decision of USG.

(7) USG is prepared between July 1, 1956, and June 30, 1957, provide equipment, subject legislative action by Congress, to assist Libyan Government expand Libyan Army to extent of 1,000 men as may be considered necessary after US military survey team has evaluated requirements; and USG is sympathetic with Libya's future needs in relation internal security and will hope continue cooperation this field.

I have also been instructed by my government inform Your Excellency that:

USG does not underestimate mutual importance firm friendship and understanding now existing between two governments but needs reassurances concerning present attitude Libyan Government this regard.

True purpose American aid to Libya is and has been advance day when Libya can stand on own feet economically.

US does not believe GOL would endanger this type friendship and continuing cooperation for untried and unknown.

GOL should understand that position US with regard aid to Libya cannot be influenced by considerations arising from offers from other shouces. Decision USG have, however, been based on assumption that GOL would not be willing jeoparkize its independence and collaboration with US by acceptance offers from sources whose intent is damage relations between GOL and USG.

CHAPIN

Date MESSAGE CENTER 1956 MAR 24 PM 2 45
GEM/

Note: Mr Cyr (AF) notified 2:45 p.m., 3/24/CWO-JRL.

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Control: 15089
Rec'd: March 24, 1975
10:38 a.m.

FROM: Tripoli

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 531, March 24, 2 p.m. (SECTION TWO)

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 531; REPEATED INFORMATION BENGHAZI UNNUMBERED.

VERBATIMTEXT CONTINUED

If foregoing offer assistance acceptable to GOL, my government proposes detailed arrangements under which such assistance could be provided be negotiated as soon as practicable. This note and Your Excellency's reply accepting it may be considered as constituting general basis for proceeding with offers outlined sub-paragraphs (1) through (7) above.

Accept, etc.

END QUOTE

Comments:

(A) Inclusion reference six year plan in opening paragraph intended underline fact US not (repeat not) committed to finance all or any part.

(B) Addition references four million special funds in paragraphs (1) and (3) intended emphasize actual size US contribution as well as strengthen references to 1954 commitment.

(C) Embassy feels inclusion in paragraph (2) reference to March 15 letter on wheat essential prevent possible misinterpretation.

(D) Embassy feels inclusion contents paragraphs (1) through (5) second numbered series DEPTEL 397 in unclassified note desirable but has rewritten paragraphs (4) and (5) to avoid publicly accusing Libyans of bargaining with Soviet offer and eliminate all reference specific country.

Certain other minor changes made in interest conformity language September 9 exchange.

Request Department comment urgently.

Date Name Correction Made by RM/R

TT/GWL/6

TAPPIN

Note: Mr. Cyr (AF) notified 2:45 p.m. 3/24/CWO-JRL

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